

US Public Opinion about Climate Change Issues

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Questions

1. Is there a consensus about *the problem?*
2. Is there a consensus about *solutions?*

Is global warming happening?

- ABC/Washington Post (June 2005): **59%**
“Completely convinced” or “mostly convinced”
that “global warming is actually happening”
- Oak Ridge Center/Harris (Sept. 2005) **72%**
“Already seeing effects today”
- Gallup (March 2006): **58%**
Effects of global warming “have already begun”
- Time/ABC/Stanford (March 2006): **85%**
Think world’s temperature has “probably” been
“going up slowly over the past 100 years”

How much of a problem is it?

“Serious problem now”	38%
“Serious problem in future”	85

Time/ABC/Stanford (March 2006)

Has there been a change in the level of concern?

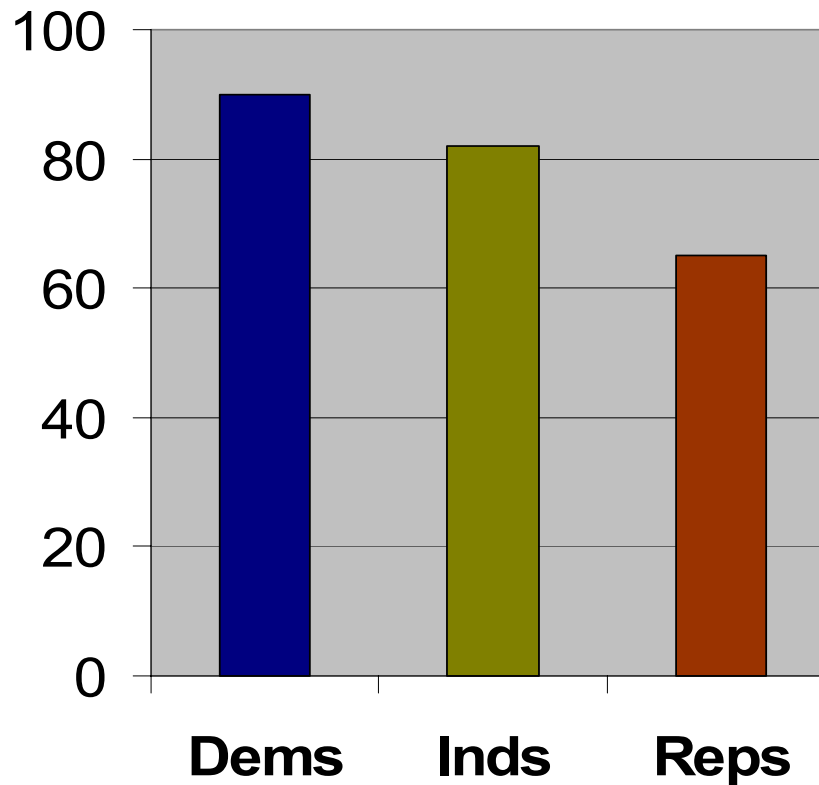
(Opinion Research Corporation – February 2006)

<i>Self-reported change in past two years</i>	
Much more concerned	34%
Somewhat more concerned	24
No change	29
Somewhat less concerned	7
Much less concerned	4

Comparisons across Party Affiliations

Threat to future generations

(ABC / Washington Post – June 2005)



Answer to Question 1:

There a consensus about the problem.

1. More than half of the population believes GW is *happening*.
2. Much more than half believe it will be a serious problem in the *future* - *but* less than half see it is a serious problem *now*.
3. The *level of concern* has been rising the past two years.
4. Substantial majorities of Republicans and Independents, as well as Democrats, see it as a threat to future generations.

Question 2:
Is there a consensus about *solutions*?

Federal government should do

Much more	46%
Somewhat more	22
Doing about right amount	25
Somewhat less	2
Much less	3

(Time/ABC/Stanford - March 2006)

What should be done?

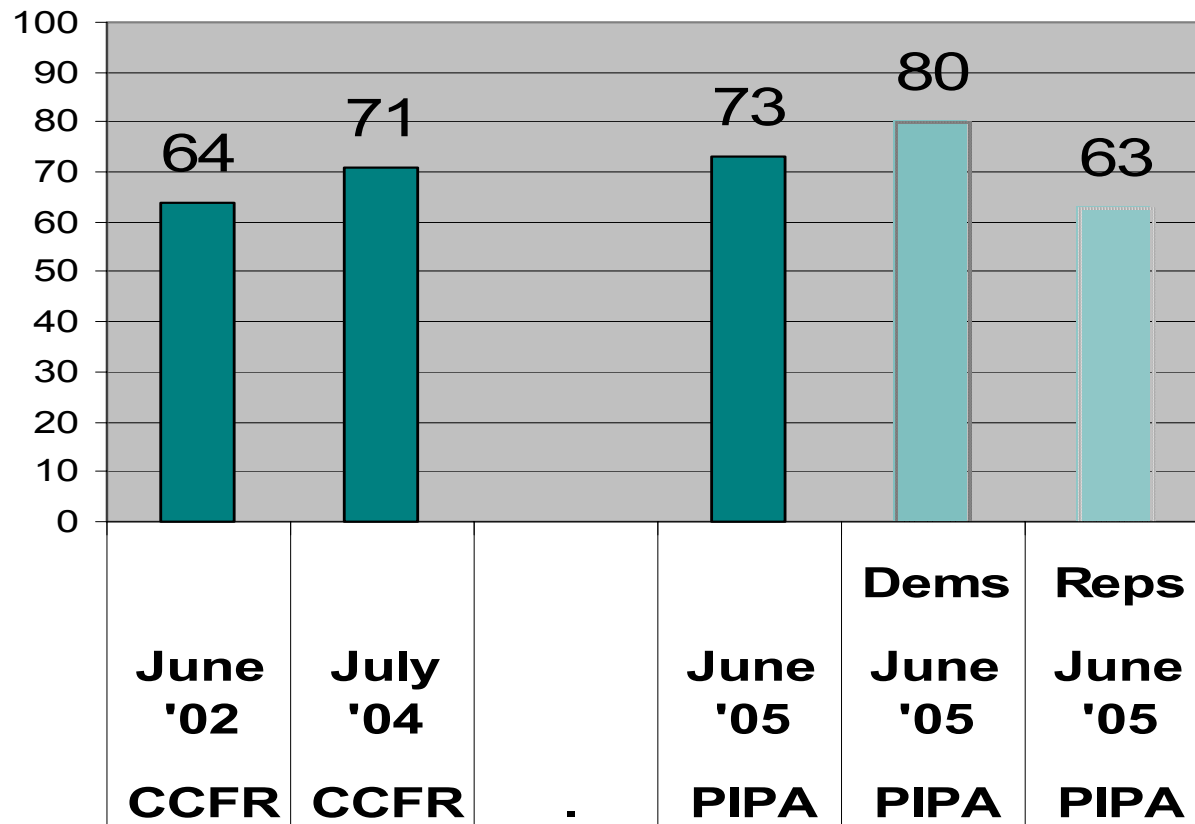
Climate Change Agenda

Four Issue Domains

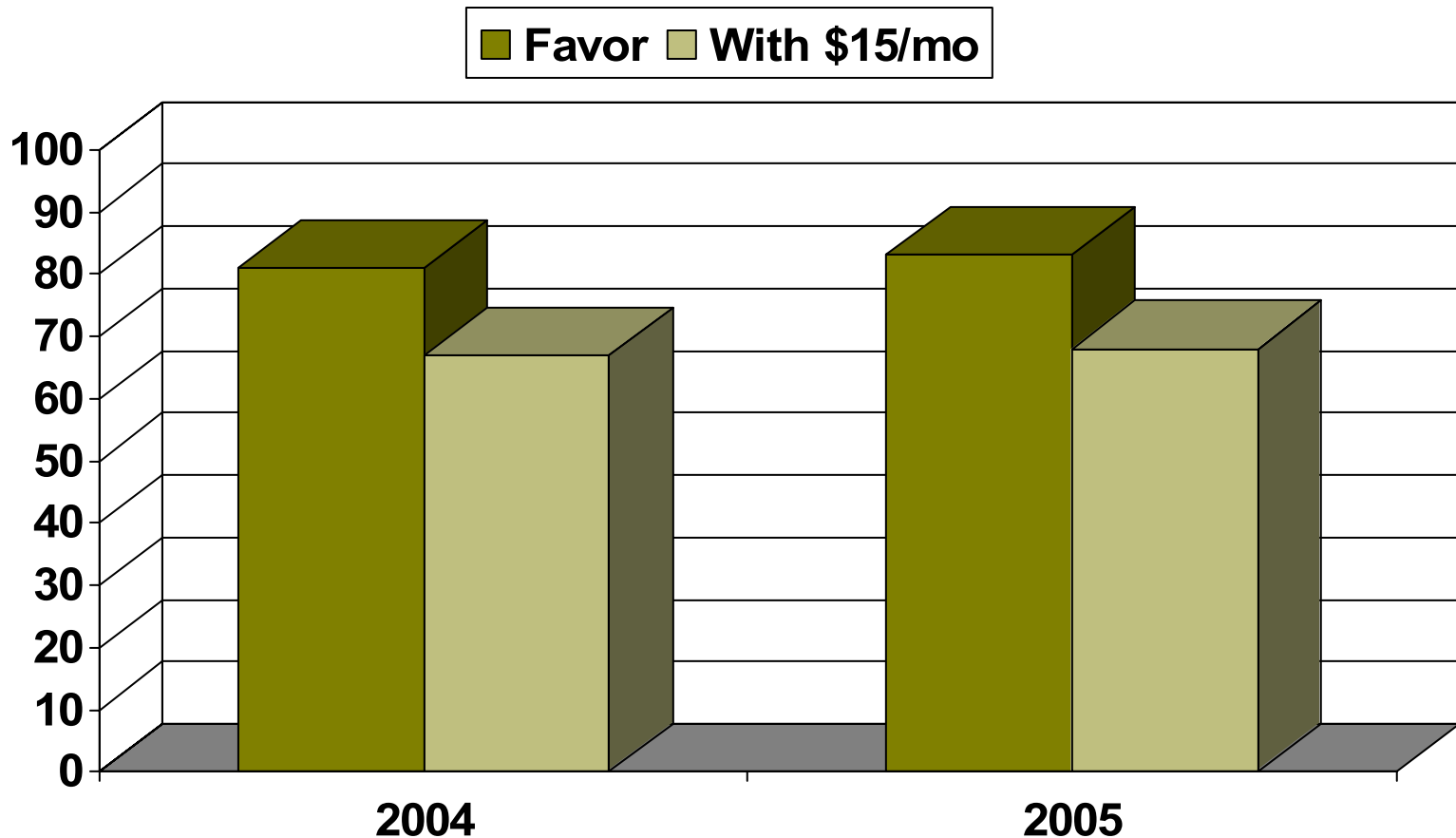
		“Scope”	
“Approach”		International	Domestic
Regulatory		I	II
Technological		IV	III

Issue Domain I: Kyoto Protocol

Percent Favoring US Participation
in Kyoto Protocol



Issue Domain II: Domestic Regulations Require Large Firms to Reduce GHG Emissions? (PIPA – June 2004 and June 2005)



Federal government should:

(Time/ABC/Stanford - March 2006)

	<u>Require</u>	<u>Encourage</u>	<u>Stay Out</u>
Reduce power plant GHG emissions	61	26	11
Cars use less gasoline	45	40	15
Appliances use less electricity	42	41	17
Homes & offices less energy for heating/cooling	33	51	15

What about taxes?

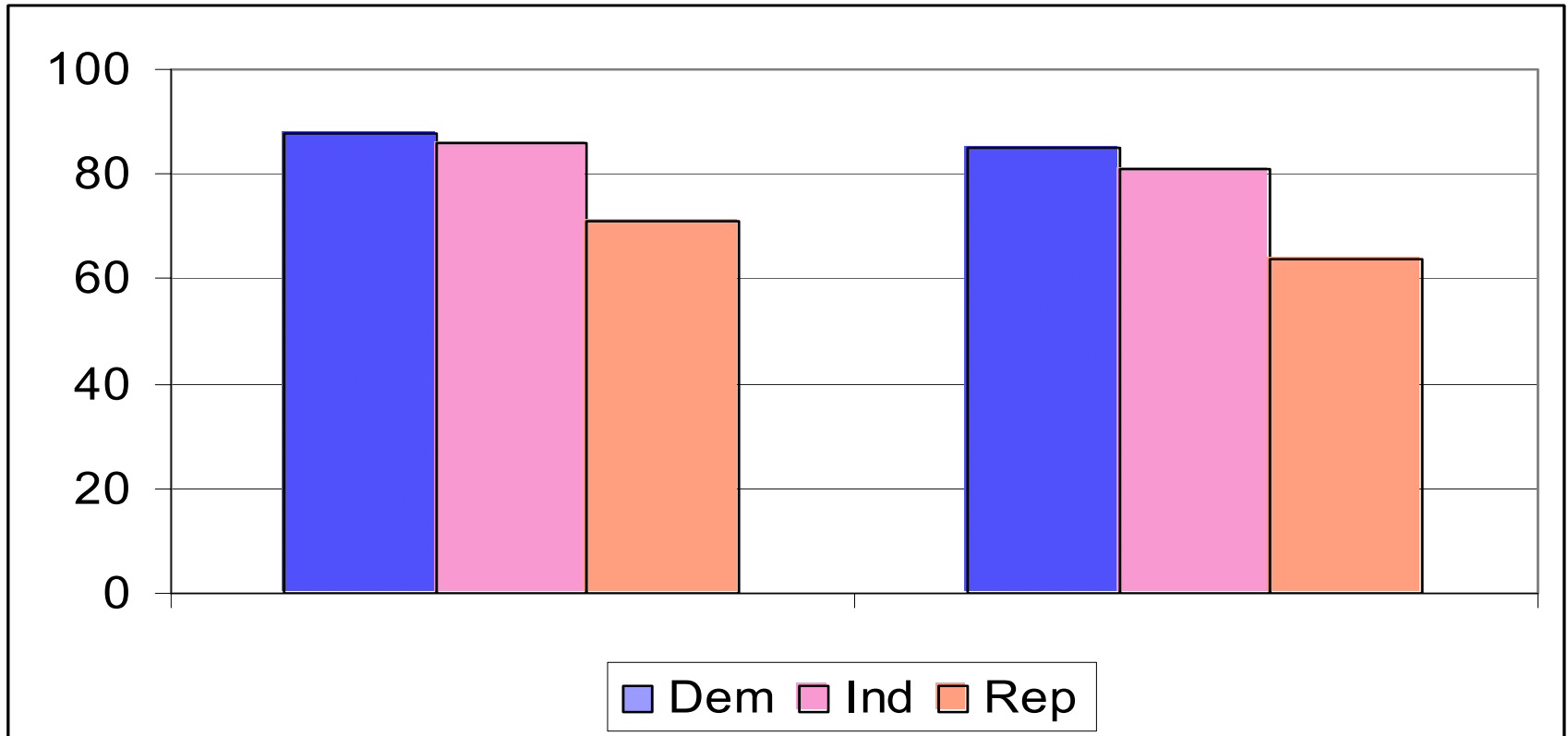
(Time/ABC/Stanford - March 2006)

	Favor %	Oppose %
Increase taxes on electricity	19	81
Increase taxes on gasoline	31	68

Domestic Regulations: California

Percent in favor of reducing new car GHG emissions

(PPIC - 2004 and 2005)



Issue Domain III: Domestic Technology Subsidies for Electricity Producers?

(Time/ABC/Stanford - March 2006)

	Favor %	Oppose %
Tax breaks for companies to produce electricity from <i>water, wind, solar</i>	87	12
Tax breaks for companies to build <i>nuclear</i> power plants	41	56

Issue Domain IV: International Trade, Investment and Technology Transfer

Not enough survey data!

“Climate Change” Title XVI

Energy Policy Act of 2005

Expanded the Climate Change Agenda

For More Information

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www.usclimatechange.com

“US Public Opinion on Climate Change Issues:
Implications for Consensus-Building and
Policymaking,” *Climate Policy*, 4 (2005): 359-376

Reports of Survey Sources

ABC/Washington Post (June and September 2005):

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Washington Post, “Beliefs About Climate Change Hold Steady,” accessed from www.washingtonpost.com on October 4, 2005.

Gallup (March 2006):

Lydia Saad, “Americans Still Not Concerned About Global Warming, Though record numbers say it’s happening now,” downloaded from www.poll.gallup.com on April 17, 2006.

Opinion Research Corporation (February 2006):

“Global Warming & Alternative Energy: A Leadership Survey,” downloaded from www.resultsforamerica.org on March 15, 2006.

ORCAS (2005) - Oak Ridge Center for Advanced Studies (2005):

“ORCAS/Harris Interactive ® Survey of Public Perceptions,” downloaded from <http://orcas.ornl.gov> on October 14, 2005.

Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) - Sept. 2004 and June 2005:

“US citizens back action to curb greenhouse emissions,” by Scott Heiser. Washington, July 5, 2005. Downloaded from www.pipa.org on November 8, 2005.

“Americans on Climate Change: 2005,” Steven Kull, Principal Investigator, July 5, 2005, downloaded from www.pipa.org on January 10, 2006.

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